

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /061 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:JEBURGESS:ML
APPROVED BY PM/ISO - GTCHURCHILL
EUR/WE - JSWIHART
OASD/ISA/FMRA - PBARRINGER
-----000274 240316Z /70

O 240153Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE
SECNAV IMMEDIATE
CNO IMMEDIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE
CINCLANTFLT IMMEDIATE
COMSUBLANT IMMEDIATE
COMFAIRMED IMMEDIATE
COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE
CTF SIX NINE IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
COMSUBGRU EIGHT NAPLES IT IMMEDIATE
COMNAVSEASYSCOM WASHDC IMMEDIATE
COMSUBREFITRAGRU LA MADDALENA IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USDAO ROME IT IMMEDIATE
NMCC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MOPS, MARR, US, IT
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SUBJECT: USS RAY GROUNDING

REF: USDAO ROME 2937 SEP 77 (DTG 231159Z SEP 77)

1. REFTTEL INDICATES SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUES HAVE BEEN
RAISED OVER PRESS RELEASE ON USS RAY ACCIDENT AND SHORT

NOTICE BERTHING AT LA MADDALENA. WE FULLY APPRECIATE ITALIAN SENSITIVITIES AND REGRET THAT MORE TIME WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR GOI TO REVIEW PRESS RELEASE TEXT BEFORE IT WAS RELEASED.

2. AT THE SAME TIME IT MIGHT HELP ITN AND GOI TO RESPOND TO QUERIES IF EMBASSY REMINDED GOI THAT USS RAY IS A SHIP OF A NATO ALLY OPERATING IN THE MED IN SUPPORT OF THAT ALLIANCE AND WAS ENROUTE TO NATO EXERCISE DISPLAY DETERMINATION WHEN IT SUSTAINED A CASUALTY NOT RELATED TO OR AFFECTED BY ITS MODE OF PROPULSION. UNFORTUNATELY CASUALTIES OF THIS NATURE COULD BEFALL ANY OF THE SHIPS OPERATED BY THE US OR ITS NATO ALLIES IN THE FREQUENTLY DIFFICULT MILITARY OPERATIONS SUPPORTING OUR NATO OBJECTIVES. IN SUCH INSTANCES ASSISTANCE FROM ALLIES WOULD BE EXPECTED, PARTICULARLY

FOR THE USE OF FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO NATO.

3. FURTHERMORE, IN THE US THERE IS A STANDING REQUIREMENT TO GIVE THE PUBLIC THOSE DETAILS ASSOCIATED WITH AN ACCIDENT AFFECTING MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL WHICH ARE NOT PRECLUDED FROM RELEASE BY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING PRACTICE, THE NAME OF THE PORT WAS THEREFORE INCLUDED IN THE PRESS RELEASE. ITS EXCLUSION WOULD ONLY HAVE GIVEN RISE TO SPECULATION, FORCED A LATE DISCLOSURE, AND THEREFORE FOCUSED INTENSE ATTENTION ON
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LA MADDALENA.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COUNTER ALLEGATIONS OF DANGER FROM THE DAMAGED SHIP. AS WAS MADE CLEAR IN PRESS RELEASE, AND IN INFORMATION PASSED TO EMBASSY FOR ITS USE PRIOR TO PRESS RELEASE, THERE WAS NO REPEAT NO DAMAGE TO ANY PORTION OF THE SHIP'S NUCLEAR SYSTEM, THERE IS NO REPEAT NO RISK OF RADIATION OR DISCHARGE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL AS A RESULT OF THE GROUNDING, AND - THE SHIP DOES NOT REPEAT NOT AND WILL NOT REPEAT NOT POSE A HAZARD TO THE ENVIRONMENT OR INHABITANTS OF SARDINA. WE APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S EFFORTS TO PLACE THESE EVENTS IN PROPER PROSPECTIVE WITH THE GOI AND THE PUBLIC.

5. DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF LIKELIHOOD THAT PRESENT CONTROVERSY WILL RESULT IN POLITICAL FALLOUT WITH ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR US PRESENCE AT LA MADDALENA OR OTHER ITALIAN PORTS RECEIVING NPW. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, SHIP ACCIDENTS, PRESS RELEASES, MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: JEBURGESS:ML
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770347-0767
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770925/aaaaauwd.tel
Line Count: 113
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: b0d22a3e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: SECRET
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: SECRET
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1143789
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USS RAY GROUNDING
TAGS: MOPS, MARR, US, IT
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b0d22a3e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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